



Rick and Kelly Schwanke

Rick and Kelly Schwanke have been Foster Parents since November 2005. In addition to being Foster Parents, they have two children of their own, Matthew who is 12 and Eric who is 16. Since becoming Foster Parents they have had one placement, which include 3 foster sisters. Rick and Kelly decided to become foster parents because they feel they have been blessed in their marriage and careers and best of all with children. They wanted to share their lives in a way that would sort of "give back" to their community. Foster Parenting seemed to be the best fit for them in which they pur-

sued it, and are very happy that they did!

Rick and Kelly's words of wisdom for new Foster Parents are "taking advantage of meetings with the St. Amilian Lakeside counselor by being open about your feelings, frustrations and questions. Keep in touch with former foster parents, if possible, as they can help you save a lot of time figuring out each child's personality traits, etc. And most importantly, instead of trying to make everything perfect all the time in the household, let certain things go a bit during the day so you

can just talk, hug and play with the kids. Getting to know them and making small steps in making them happier little people is far more important than making sure every bed is made every morning!"

When asked if Rick and Kelly found PACE training to be helpful they stated "We found the PACE training right on target." Not only is it educational, but meeting with fellow foster parents and social workers gives you a sense that it is a community team effort and that everyone is really devoted to these kids."

Contact Numbers:

Waukesha H & HS
262-548-7212

Eve Altizer Children's Mental Health Outreach
262-548-7310

Crisis Mentoring Pager
414-848-6711

Medical Emergency: 911
Family Emergency: 211

Judy David
Support Group President
414-671-3747
(home) 414-462-8446

Lisa Alden, Supervisor
262-548-7271

Shari Rather,
Foster Care Coordinator
262-548-7267

Amber Sparks
Visitation Coordinator
262-896-6849

Jan. '06 Placements

Regular Foster Care:
64 Children
4 Admitted
2 Discharged

Treatment Foster Care:
30 Children
0 Admitted
1 Discharged

Group Homes:
5 Children
1 Admitted
2 Discharged

Residential Care Facilities:
10 Children
2 Admitted
0 Discharged

Relative Placements:
47 Children
13 Admitted
1 Discharged

Social Workers:

Bob Alioto
262-548-7262

Peggy Beisser
262-548-7261

Kathe Blum
262-548-7275

Barb Hufschmidt
262-548-7270

Margaret Johnson
262-548-7265

Suzanne Koberstein
262-548-7348

Elizabeth Russo
262-548-7349

Kim Sampson
262-548-7273

Linda Senger
262-548-7698

Marilyn Videgar
262-548-7363

Ted Wuerslin
262-548-7269

Jennifer Wygle
262-548-7260

We Need You!

For more information about becoming a foster parent in Waukesha County, please contact Shari Rather at:


srather@waukeshacounty.gov
262-548-7267

or visit our website at
www.waukeshacounty.gov
and follow the links to foster care.

Waukesha County
Health & Human Services
March 2006

Foster Care Forum

Join the Milwaukee Admirals in Supporting Foster Care & Adoption in Wisconsin!



Join us for a night of fun with the Milwaukee Admirals on Tuesday, March 14, 2006. The Admirals will take on Grand Rapids in a 7 p.m. game at the Bradley Center in downtown Milwaukee.

Tickets are \$12 per adult and \$10 per child (14 and under).

\$2 from every ticket sale will benefit Adoption Resources!

For tickets, call Rich Baumann at 414-227-0800. Make sure to mention that you're with Adoption Resources of Wisconsin when you place your order.

Child Safety Seat Laws

2005 WISCONSIN ACT 106 - Takes effect on June 1, 2006.

Restraint Requirements
Act 106 creates a tiered structure, according to age and size, of restraint requirements for transporting children under the age of eight in a motor vehicle. Under the Act, a child who is:

1. Less than one year old or who weighs less than 20 pounds must be "properly restrained" (defined in the Act) in a rear-facing child safety seat in the back seat of the vehicle if the vehicle is equipped with a back seat.
2. At least one year old and weighs at least 20 pounds but is less than four years old or weighs less than 40 pounds must be properly restrained in a forward-facing child safety seat in the back seat of the vehicle if the vehicle is equipped with a back seat.
3. At least four years old but less than eight years old, weighs at least 40 but not more than 80 pounds, and is no more than 57 inches tall must be properly restrained in a "child booster seat" (defined in the Act).
4. Under the age of eight and exceeds the weight or height limit specified in item 3., above, must be properly restrained by a seat belt.

Children who are required to be in either a rear-facing or front-facing child safety seat are also required to be positioned at a designated seating position in the back passenger seat if the vehicle is equipped with a back passenger seat.

The Act prohibits a person from transporting a child under the age of eight in a motor vehicle unless: (1) the child is restrained as described above; and (2) the restraint system meets the standards established by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and is appropriate to the child's age and size. Certain exceptions that apply under current law continue to apply to these requirements.

If you have questions about the content of this article please contact:
Wisconsin Information Network for Safety,
wins9467@sbcglobal.net,
1-866-511-WINS (9467)



Foster Care Forum
Waukesha Health & Human Services
500 Riverview Ave. Waukesha 53188
262-548-7212

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Would you like to receive this newsletter via e-mail instead of mail? Please e-mail: srather@waukeshacounty.gov to complete this request. You can also find it online at www.waukeshacounty.gov.



Jesse's Corner



It's been brought to my attention that some of you may not be aware of the judicial reviews process that we implemented this year in Waukesha County Juvenile Court. For all out of home cases including court ordered kinship, foster care, treatment foster care, group home and residential care center placements we must review their cases every 6 months, from the date of their initial placement (Judicial Hearing), and every 12 months (Permanency Hearing) and alternating these hearings until the child/youth is no longer in out of home care. The Court Commissioner will hear the judicial reviews and the Juvenile Court Judge will hear the Permanency Hearings. For judicial hearings, the commissioner will hear testimony regarding the permanency plan recommended by the Department including services to the child, family, foster family, etc. as well as information on the progress of achieving the goals of the permanency plan. The commissioner will be given the recommended permanency plan and an update of the status of the case (this may include testimony by the assigned social worker, contracted providers or anyone may be involved in the case). The commissioner will determine the progress towards achieving the permanency goals and may direct the Department to file a revision of the Dispositional Court Order (order placing the child in out of home care) to change the permanency plan and/or other services to the child or family. I'm hopeful that this change will enable us to find permanent homes for our children/youth sooner! If you have any specific questions please contact your social worker or Lisa Alden, Permanency Services Supervisor.

On somewhat of a related matter, we've had an increase in the number of people wanting to be foster parents. The good news is that as of December 31, 2005 we've increased our licensed foster homes to 115 families (outstanding!). With the increase in foster homes I think we can do a better job of "matching" the needs of the child and birth family with the strengths/talents of the foster family. The bad news (or good news) is that we've seen a decrease in the number of children needing to be placed in foster care. As required by state law, I think our efforts to find a placement with the adjudicated father; alleged father and/or relatives from one or both sides of the family have resulted in a decrease in the need for foster care placements. Since all of you have attended PACE training, or will be doing so in the near future and are licensed foster home we

need to figure out how we can use your home. I'd prefer not to waste your talent and willingness to help out! That being said, I'm wondering if any of you would be willing to provide respite care, or crisis respite care for children special needs (mental health or developmentally disabled). If so, could you contact Shari Rather and inform her. We'll follow up and get back to you about these services and any additional training/support that we will provide.

Announcements: Attachment Training will be on March 25th at the Center for Learning Excellence in Waukesha from 9am to 4pm. Childcare will be provided. This is excellent training for all foster parents who completed PACE this training is a continuation of the Attachment, Placement and Separation training from PACE. Dr. Mary Hess will also be at this training.

Social Worker Spotlight

Linda Senger



1. Personal Information: (marriage, kids, pets, hobbies)
I have a 3 yr. old bordercollie/German Shepard mix named Shea. Enjoy spending time in the Eagle River area and taking advantage of the beautiful outdoors of the Northwoods. Love fishing, boating as well as just sitting on the lake taking in the quiet.

2. Educational Background: (university attended and degree earned) Mount Mary College - BSW

3. Work Experience: (length at Waukesha, how long working as a social worker, areas worked in)
Have been a social worker for 20 years. Have been employed at Waukesha County for 15 years. Have only worked in Parent Services/Permanency Services Unit during my time at the department. Prior to the County, I worked at a non-profit agency in the inner city of Milwaukee for 5 years dealing with homelessness, housing and system access issues on behalf of poor/low income people.

4. What brings you the greatest joy as a social worker? Why did you become a social worker?
Seeing positive relationships develop between biological parents and foster parent/ relative care providers. When communication is open and fear(s) and suspicions by parents/fosterparents of each other is gone, or set aside, the kids in care win!! They are able to see that they are loved by both families. From my experience, the case also tends to go more smoothly, no matter what the final outcome.

Use these classes to meet foster parent training requirements!

Love & Logic (seven week series)

- Wednesdays, March 1 – April 12, 2006
- 6 – 8 p.m.
- \$35/person, \$45/couple
- Learn techniques to give more responsibility to your child.

Call Adoption Resources of Wisconsin at 414-475-1246 or register online at www.wiadopt.org

Adult Adoptee Support Group

- Wednesday, March 1, 2006
- 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- This is a FREE event
- Share information, support and resources.

For more information, call 414-475-1246

Great Families Support Group

- Saturday, March 4, 2006
- 10 a.m. - Noon
- This is a FREE event
- A support group for parents of special needs children.

For more information, call Paula Plasky at 414-475-1246

Transracial/Transcultural Series (six part series)

- Tuesdays, March 7 – April 18, 2006
- 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- \$35/person, \$45/couple
- Educate yourself in ways to handle racism, talk about cultural differences and understand the day-to-day challenges your child may face.

Call Adoption Resources of Wisconsin at 414-475-1246 or register online at www.wiadopt.org

Adopted Teens & Tweens Unite!

- Tuesday, March 21, 2006
- 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Pre-registration is desired
- This is a FREE event
- This group gives young adoptees the opportunity to talk about adoption issues with one another – as well as have plenty of fun with other adopted kids!

For more information, call Leah Elston at 414-475-1246

Learn About Adoption!

- Saturday, March 25, 2006
- 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Pre-registration is desired
- This is a FREE event
- This workshop offers the opportunity for families considering adoption to learn about special needs adoption, providing permanency to a school aged child, establishing an adoption partnership with a waiting child, post-adoption services and how to become a Wendy's Wonderful Family to a child.
- Gateway Technical College, Room T130
- 3520 30th Avenue, Kenosha

Call Adoption Resources of Wisconsin at 414-475-1246

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